

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by LEA (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,373); and allows claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11, 13-15, 19, and 20.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11, 13-15, 19, and 20 are allowable over the art of record.

By way of the present amendment, Applicant proposes canceling claims 16 and 18. Applicant respectfully requests that the present amendment be entered since the present amendment places the application in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by LEA. While not acquiescing in this rejection, Applicant proposes canceling claims 16 and 18 herewith, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

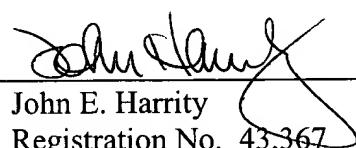
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY & SNYDER, L.L.P.

By:


John E. Harrity
Registration No. 43,367

Date: April 16, 2004

11240 Waples Mill Road
Suite 300
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(571) 432-0800

Customer Number: 26615